Calmage

Sermon

Frank De Witt Talmage, D. D.

While I was pondering on this text

like a flash this sentence rose to my

with the power of the Holy Ghost."

These men and women are like the dis-

ciples of Jesus Christ before the day

of Pentecost. They believe in Jesus.

In one sense they have been followers

of Christ, but in another sense they

have not had their souls fired with the

living coals from off his altars. These

men, and women are in exactly the

same position as was Dwight L. Moo-

dy during the first years of his minis-

try in the city of Chicago.

Let me show you what that condi-

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pare my sermons than I did then. I who takes you down to the seashore preached and preached, but it was and shows you a beautiful temple beating against the air. A good wom-an said to me, 'Mr. Moody, you don't Oh, it is exquisite in design. The lights

seem to have power in your preaching. come shining through the most expen-My desire was that I might have a sive of glass windows. The altars are fresh anointing. I requested this wo- rich with gold and beautiful tapestries. man and a few others to come and The floors are exquisite mosaics. The pray with me every Friday afternoon dome is a perfect heaven of blue. What at 4 o'clock. Oh, how piteously I would you think if that architect, after prayed that God might fill the empty he had taken you through that building. vessel! After the fire in Chicago I was would reply to you when you asked: in New York city, and, going into a bank on Wall street, it seemed as if I felt a strange and mighty power coming over me. I went up to the hotel, and there in my room I wept before them deep and strong, where all the God and cried, 'O my God, stay thy work would be hidden from the eyes hand." He gave me such fullness that of man, I simply builded these walls It seemed more than I could contain. upon the surface. I expended all my

would not be back where I was four day of the launching of that boat the years ago for all the wealth of this world. If you would roll it at my feet first great storm at sea that boat would I would kick it away like a football. go to pieces or sink with all on board. seem a wonder to some of you, but Now, it is not sufficient in the Chris-I am a greater wonder to myself than tian life for a man to say, "I am all to any one else. These are the very right because I have visited the sick same sermons I preached in Chicago and fed the hungry and was eyes to the word for word. It is not new sermons, blind." It is not sufficient for the archibut the power of God. It is not a new | tect to say, "I am all right because I gospel, but the old gospel with the have worked hard and builded my su-Holy Ghost of power." This is the tes- perstructure well." It is not rational timony of the greatest winner of souls for the ship designer to talk about set-

last ounce of energy in the preparation tion. This question precedes all other of sermons, but, like him, "we have questions. "Whom say ye that I am?" been beating against the air." As Jesus asked the disciples of old. Peter Sunday school teachers, as members answered, "Thou art the Christ, the son of the churches, we all want this high- of the living God." Do you answer er power. How can we get the higher thus? Do you believe thus? Do you bepower of the gospel? I know of no lieve in the supernatural power of better way to learn how to get it than Jesus as the disciples did when they to study the events of the days preceding the first Christian Pentecost, when the disciples, according to the command of Jesus Christ, tarried in Jerusalem until they were "endued with power from on high." O God, give to us the higher power of gospel life as thou didst give that power to thy disciples of old and art willing to give it

to thy disciples of the present day. Believed In Christ's Power. These disciples, in the first place, be-Heved in a supernatural Saviour. They believed that he had power over human souls. Just as a watchmaker is greater than his own watch and can make a watch and then take it apart and put it together again, so they be Heved that Christ, who created the vorld and created life, could take that then put that life back again into the same human body. They saw him raise Lazarus from the tomb. They believed that just as a shipbuilder could knock out a rotten plank from the hull of the boat he had once built and put a new plank in its place, so Jesus Christ, who had created the body, could put in a new eye in the place of a blind eye. He actually per-formed this miracle in the physical body again and again before their own eyes. They believed in his inspiring power. Just as man can today take the currents of electricity which he has produced and carry those currents over a wire and store them up in an electric machine called an automobile they be-lieved that this Jesus, who is a superer into the lives of his disciples if he wished so to do. In other words, they looked upon Christ as a supernatural being, able to give supernatural gifts to those to whom he wished to give those PLOWS, CASTINGS, &c. gifts. Do you believe that Christ is a supernatural being and able to do this as the disciples of old believed it on

the days preceding Pentecost? "Well," you answer, "to tell the truth, I have not thought about it." You say, "I have not been worrying so much about what I believe as about what I do." You say: "Theorists never amount to much. It is the practical fellow who brings results to pass."

A Good Suggestion.

Mr. C. B. Wainwright, of Lemon City, Fla., has written the manufac-City, Fla., has written the manufacturers that much better results are obtained from the use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in cases of pains in the stomach, colic and cholera morbus by taking it in water as hot as can be drank. That when taken in this way the effect is double in rapidity. "It seems to get at the right spot instantly," he says. For sale by B. S. Ashby & Co., Accomac, All County Agencies.

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president of the United States, one day man who left the United States sena- of the days preceding Pentecost. he said to his secretary of state: to lay down his life at Ball's Bluff, "Blaine, all my life I have been studying the theories of government, but since I have been elected president instead of thinking about theories I have never retreat." But with all his intelhad to spend most of my time listening lectuality and mental ability do you hillsides about Jerusalem are covered to the pleas of candidates for office. not consider that it was presumptuous Who is to be postmaster of Springfield for the boy, Edward Dickinson Baker, or district attorney of Chicago or judge to feel that he would yet have ability tion." So you say: "I have not had time to think whether Christ is super-Los Angeles, Cal., May 20.—That the natural or not or whether he can give ferred on the disciples at Pentecost is been using up my time in service and White House? We believe in the the still accessible to present day Christians and will be conferred on those be a guide for the blind. I truly try to Christ is ready to endue us. We know tor receives as prompt the text Luke xxiv, 49, "Until ye be endued with power from on high" let hair splitting theological questions of Pentecost first believed that Christ nione. Whether Christ is divine or not, there are who have all the mighty elements for gospel power except the one supernatural gift, rarely enters my entirely by our home means for gospel power except the one mind. To tell the truth, I do but little only obey God's commands and farry service they might render as gospel else than try to help my fellow medi, and I guess God does not care much evangelists if they would only follow what I think about Christ as long as I the leadings of Jesus Christ and plead with him that they might be baptized with the mayor of the Help Chestian and the state of the stat

> Christ. It may mean the difference be tween the possible higher power and the lower spiritual life. Works Without Faith "Faith without works is dead." But without faith in the divinity of Jesus Christ and in his supernatural power "works" in the sight of God are worse than dead. The lack of faith in Christ tion was by reading D. L. Moody's ex- means that you are utterly devoid of perience in his own words: "When I the Christ power. This belief in Christ was preaching in Farwell hall, in Chicago, I never worked harder to prew are the foundations of this beaustructure? Are they strong and "Oh, I did not put much work on the foundations. Instead of digging

commands?

you are wrong. It does make a good

deal of difference in reference to your

May God forgive me if I speak in a energies upon the superstructure." boastful way, but I do not know that What would you think of a ship dewere too many even to be buried. I have preached a sermon since but signer who did not lay the keel of his God has given me some soul. Oh, I ship straight and true? Why, on the stic field of the last central decrease with the same designer to this about set ask of him anything we will be will higher and higher until his body dispersion of the divingence of the divingual of the same designer to this about set ask of him anything we will be will higher and higher until his body dispersion of the divingual of the same designer to this about set ask of him anything we will be will higher and higher until his body dispersion of the divingual of the same designer to tury.

Brethren, we desire this higher powity of Christ and the divine power of the er. As ministers we want it. Some of us, like Mr. Moody, have spent the last amount of garage in the gospel life. It is a foundation questions of garage in the group of garage in the garage

gathered in Jerusalem to be endued with power from on high? These disciples believed that Christ could give his supernatural power to his disciples if he would. They did more. They believed that Christ would give to them, as individuals, this supernatural power, if they were only obedient to his divine commands and tarried still in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. Now, it is one fact to feel that Christ can give to others his power if he would or that he will give to me individually his higher power if I am willing to obey his commands and do as he wishes me to do. Let me explain

Realizing Possibilities.

this demarcation. All American boys are born free and equal. All have a possibility of some day being elected president of the United States if they live. We were all taught this theory from the cradle. The story of Lincoln, the rail splitter, and of James A. Garfield, following the towpath, have been repeated again and again in almost every nursery. But though the poor boy, the boy of the humble home, may yet be elected presi-dent of the United States, do we in the highest flights of our imagination suppose that our own boys will ever be elected chief executive of this nation? We know it is possible, but do we feel that there is any probability of this possibility coming true? Furthermore, when we were young, in the wildest flights of our imagination did we ever have the assurance of the successful outcome of our own powers, as did the little boy, Edward Dickinson Baker, the son of the poor English emi-grant, who had crossed the seas an settled on Illinois prairies? One day the lad of twelve was found weeping by a school friend. "What is the matter, Eddie?" he asked. "Oh," said Eddie, "I have just been reading my American history and I find out that by the American constitution no for-eign born child can ever be elected president of the United States. Ever since I could think and plan I have been planning what I should do when I became president of the United

'Tis true this unknown lad became

A Good Family Liniment. Every family should be supplied with a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain

When James A. Garfield was elected senator from Oregon, and he was the revival was to me an exact duplication torial halls clad in a soldier's uniform enough to be elected president of the son or mine should ever grace the his disciples if he would, because he was divine; second, that he would give

gospei work what you think about s not difficult for me to understand how God could give the higher power to a Moody or a Finney or a Wesley or a Peter or a James or a John or a Mary on the day of Pentecost, but that he will give to me this higher power if I obey his will-ah, me, that is hard to his promites with those who are menbetter than you or I? Some time ago I was riding out to the grave of a thrice. But, though the cock crew to southern lady who had been a member was a gentleman who, with all his family, had been rescued from the Galveston flood of a few years ago. I said, "Tell me about it." Then he told ne how the waters rose higher and the gates. Then they rose to the first | go on. But on the tenth day, while They grew higher and higher when the winds in an angry hurricane blew them in. Then the people were drowned, not by the hundreds, but by the thousands. The walls tottered. The houses were battered to pieces. Flying through the air went great everywhere. The dead were so many that after the water had subsided they were piled into boats and taken out and dumped into the gulf stream. They higher power of gospel life? He will.

A Crucial Test.

Oh, that is a crucial test of faith! It

tragedy?" I asked. "As calm as I do begin to plead and to consecrate your now," he replied. "I knew that in the whole life to the Master's service? face of this storn, and flood no human arm could save me. Human help was beyond the question. It could do no good if it came. I could not swim. Besides that, I had in my house a wife its fiercest I gathered them all together awhile a roof came floating past. you if you only prepare yourself for My aged negro servant caught it. He God's gift. held it for a little while by the side of the house. I placed the whole family You need it now. Let me see; how

from on high? Why the Power Came,

But these disciples of old did more put themselves into a proper condition They not only threw themselves upon life! O God, may I live and breathe Ghost since ye believed?" and plan and work only for thee!" Is not that your idea of how the disciples of old passed the days in Jerusalem preceding the moment when the power of the Holy Spirit came upon them in tongues of fire? If you and I would only do as those disciples of old did and come with such prayers and plead- to get them all in the house.—New York ings upon our lips, do you not believe | Press. that Christ would also endue us with power from on high?

If I might be pardoned a simile, my idea of those days preceding Pentecost were not like our evangelistic meetings when a preacher would stand up and deliver a text and then have an introduction and a conclusion. They were rather like the days of the Welsh revival of 1905. There, I am told, the people crowded into the churches, and there was no set leader. Now a hymn God would be repeated by many differ. each class. During young Grant's would be started. Now the promises of

ent lips. Now a testimony would be year examination his father, Major given. Now an earnest prayer would General-then brigadier general-Fredte lifted up. The meetings would not erick Dent Grant, became a little anxstart at 7 or 8 o'clock and run for an lous about the stand his son was taking hour and a half and have every one and wrote to the superintendent of the look at his watch if the service academy, a classmate of his, to ask his went a second over ninety minutes. honest opinion as to whether a son But there the meetings would start at would pass the midyear examination. any time. Then when the meetings The answer, which came promptly once got started they would run on and | was brief and to the point and said: were loath to leave each other and go home and go to sleep. Yes, the Welsh himself since about his son's career.

Come, let me take you to the upper chamber in Jerusalem. It is the year 30 A. D. It is about the 1st of June or the beginning of summer. All the per chamber, which was supposed to belong to the Evangelist Mark, who was one of the biographers of Jesus, we find that these disciples had been abiding there for nearly ten days, or ever since the ascension. I hear a woman's sweet voice lifted in prayer It is the voice of Mary, the mother of Christ. The voice goes something like this: "O Lord Jesus, I cared for thee when thou wert a child. I am thy mother, but thou art my Lord. Send thy spirit into our midst. Come quickly with thy power. Come and cleanse us from all sin." Then as the prayer died away in pleading sobs methinks I hear a voice starting a song as we sometimes hear in a Methodist gather ing, but instead of a Methodist hymn the voice leads the little gathering through the noble melodies of the grand old Twenty-third Psalm of David, which is a promise in music. And as the climax is reached a strange spiritual influence sweeps over the room when the voices chorus that last grand "Surely goodness and mercy

the Lord forever." Then for a little while silence reigns Why, it is so still that you can almost hear each heart beat. Then another sob. Then Peter arises and says: "Oh, brethren, why did I deny him? Why believe! And yet is not God keeping | did I desert him at the saddest moment of his life? I can now see him turning tally and physically no stronger or his great loving eyes upon me. I denied him not only once, but twice and remind me, he never reproached me. of my church. Among the pallbearers | He surely forgives if we come and ask his forgiveness." Then another silence. Then a searching of the Scriptures Then a sobbing voice says: "I am Thomas, the doubter. But he forgives me, even me." Then the prayer and higher. First they came to the top of the supplications and the confessions they were still praying, suddenly each man and woman and child turned toward the others and cried: Look! See the flames! It is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit." And, oh, my friends, if we come to God believing that he would bless us if we asked beams. It was death overhead. It him and if we would only meet and was death all around. It was death pray and agonize and consecrate ourold did on the day of Pentecost do you not believe Christ would give to us the Will you not therefore here and now "How did you feel during that awful start forth to seek your Pentecost and

shall follow me all the days of my

life, and I will dwell in the couse of

Came When Most Needed. But I cannot close without just one thought more. This baptism of the power of the Holy Spirit came to the disciples of old in the days when they and two little children and five or six felt their greatest need of the promisold people who had come there for ed comforter or supernatural power. shelter. So when the storm was raging | The crucifixion was over. Yes. The resurrection had come. Yes. But one er in an upper room. Then I said: day less than two weeks before sud-'Friends, the Bible tells us that if we denly Christ had again departed. Up come to God in believing prayer and from the Mount of Ascension he went; would save us. I never had a tremor came the power of the Holy Spirit. about the result. He did save us. Aft- That power is ready to descend upon

Friend, you need this higher power. upon the roof. Then I climbed there long ago did she die-she who was so myself. It was an awful night. No horror could be greater than those hours we passed through. Yet all Last Sunday as a preacher you delivthrough the night I kept saying: 'I be- ered a sermon which was in a literary lieve. I believe he will sense a poetic gem. But after you fin save us. I believe.' And save us he ished you knew as a messenger of did." Could you in a time of trouble | Christ that it rang false all through. make a believing prayer like that? You need this power in the home. In You appropriate to yourself the your own strength you cannot rear promise as he did? Do you believe that family aright for God. Can it be God will bless you as an individual if that we are going to refuse longer to you obey his commandments the same seek this power of the higher spiritual as he blessed his people in the Gal- life? It is said that on March 14, 1906, veston flood and blessed the disciples | the British steamer Phenix foundered of old who tarried still in Jerusalem at sea of the banks of Newfoundland until they were endued with power and nearly all on board were lost because its hull was battered to pieces by the barrels and heavy fixtures which were torn from the ship's deck and than to simply believe that Christ then by the waves hurled against the would give to them the higher power if they would obey his commands. During the ship's side, until under these battering rams the ship went down. My Lord ing the days preceding Pentecost, by and my God, shall we be eternally deprayer, by supplication and by consecration of their full lives to God, they stroyed for service for thee because we power? Shall we not seek this high to receive this power of the Holy Spirit. power as thy disciples of old did at Pentecost? Shall these continued rethe divine love, but they prayed and fusals to seek that higher power dekept on praying something like this: atroy us as the deck debris of the Brit-"O God, cleanse me from sin! O God, ish steamer destroyed her off the Newmake me a clean vessel for the spirit foundland banks? Listen, friend. life! O God, take all selfishness and Listen and answer to this vital ques meanness and world lines out of my tion: "Have ye received the Holy

[Copyright, 1906, by Louis Klopsch.]

Ella-Yesterday was my birthday, and Fred sent me some roses-one for each year of my age. Stella-I don't see how you managed

His Son Would Pass.

In the line of aids on duty at the White House receptions stands Lieutenant U. S. Grant 3d of the engineer corps, who graduated from West Point several years ago-near the head of his class. Throughout his course at West Point Lieutenant Grant was among the star men, and long before gradua tion it was certain that he would be selected for the engineer corps, whose officers are taken from the first ten of

on, sometimes five or even ten hours | "Your son is standing higher in all long, as though the Christian people his classes than you stood in any one."